

## December 2005 Update

### Monticello Radioactively Contaminated Properties Superfund Site Monticello, UT (5-Year Review date 9/10/02)

#### Highlights Since the 2002 5-Year Review

- Privately owned property was placed in a special zoning category
  - Department of Energy cleans Montezuma Creek in September 2003.
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**Brief Site History:** The Monticello Vicinity Properties are 424 private and commercial properties in and around the city of Monticello, Utah, covering approximately four square miles. The properties are near an ore-processing mill that the federal government established during World War II to produce vanadium, a steel hardener, for the war effort. Vanadium, though not radioactive itself, usually is found in the same ore with uranium and radium; therefore, the processing wastes contain significant radioactivity. Soon after construction, the mill began processing uranium (yellow cake). Uranium production continued until 1960, when the plant was closed and dismantled. Contaminated dust from the Monticello Mill tailings piles blew onto these vicinity properties mostly within the city. Also, tailings from the mill site were used as construction material, backfill and as sand mix in concrete, resulting in the radioactive contamination of some vicinity properties in Monticello. The Mill Tailings site is located immediately south of the city, in the flood plain of Montezuma Creek. EPA added the Monticello Vicinity Properties site to the National Priorities List on June 10, 1986. The Record of Decision was signed in 1989.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** Cleanup activities that have been completed since 1993 include the following:

- 152,000 cubic yards of material has been removed from the vicinity properties and relocated to a repository constructed about one mile south of the former mill site.
- Of the eight Operable Units in place, seven (OU A-OU G) are now protective of human health and the environment. The eighth operable unit (OU H) is also in place and currently protective of human health and the environment, however, action is being taken so that the area will remain protective for the long-term.

**Current Status:** All of the operable units (OU A-OU H) were completed by December 30, 1998 and the Draft-Final Remedial Action Report was completed on July 14, 1999.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** The remedial actions at OU A through OU G are protective. The action at OU H, however, is only protective in the short term. Action was taken to allow a zoning change, which disallows construction of buildings in the area

where contamination was left in place on private property. This action was taken for the remedy to be protective in the long-term.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** A few issues that do not immediately impact the protectiveness of the remedy were noted. The following table summarizes the status of the follow-up actions addressing these issues.

**Monticello Radioactively Contaminated Properties Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date 9/10/02)**

Issues	Recommendations Follow-Up Actions	Follow-Up Actions (Status/Due Date)	Status of Follow-up Actions 12/05	Responsible Party
1) Privately owned property to be rezoned to prevent construction of a habitable structure.	- Property to be rezoned or institutional controls should be implemented	Property was placed in a special zoning category and the deed was annotated on 5/08/03	Property was placed in a special zoning category and the deed was annotated on 5/08/03	Department of Energy (DOE) and the city of Monticello
2) Erosion along the west side of Highway 191 embankment	- Continue monitoring and implement contingency actions identified in LTSM operating procedure if contamination is threatened.	The Utah DOT reconstructed the west side of US 191 the summer of 2001. DOE cleaned the channel in September 2003.	The Utah DOT reconstructed the west side of US 191 the summer of 2001. DOE cleaned the channel in September 2003.	DOE